

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0907

July 8, 2010

Kenneth Feinberg
Feinberg Rozen LLP
The Willard Office Building
1455 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 390
Washington, D.C. 20004-1008

Dear Mr. Feinberg,

The Deepwater Horizon disaster continues to impact both Gulf coastal ecosystems and the Floridians who depend on those ecosystems for their livelihoods. BP has repeatedly pledged to pay for all damages attributable to this disaster, yet distressingly, the process by which victims can be effectively and efficiently compensated for their losses needs significant improvement.

I have received numerous complaints from fishermen, hoteliers, and small business owners detailing the bureaucracy hindering the speed and ease with which these claims should be paid out. Floridians have also told me that once these compensation checks do arrive, they're not enough to cover even basic business costs. Many Gulf coast residents make the majority of their annual earnings from Memorial Day to Labor Day. As a result, irregular and relatively small compensation payments do not fit with these businesses pre-planned budgeting. You have mentioned the possibility of moving to a larger payment sum structure over longer intervals. I am interested in seeing more details on this proposal, but would continue to stress that every effort and attention should be provided to streamline and simplify the claims process.

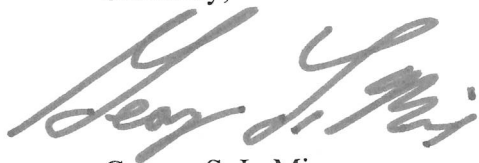
Further, the scope of the damage associated with this spill is unprecedented, and as a result the net of qualifying damages should be cast wide to ensure all affected entities and individuals are appropriately covered.

Finally, any appeals system stemming from the claims process should be designed for expedient resolution. Bureaucratic obstacles should be eliminated wherever possible. Resolving claims amicably in a mediated process would be preferable to further litigation.

Accomplishing these objectives will require local resources and personnel familiar with the economies, businesses and individuals dealing with this crisis. Florida has a longstanding history of dealing with natural disasters. Accordingly, Florida is uniquely positioned with multiple resources that may be of assistance to you and your team as you seek to streamline and improve the efficacy of the claims process. The Collins Center for Public Policy, for example, has been successful in providing conflict resolution mechanisms and rosters of experienced mediators during the recent home mortgage crisis and previously in the aftermath of the 2004-2005 hurricane seasons.

Further, if I may ever be of assistance to you in your administration of the claims process, please do not hesitate to call on me directly. Every day that goes by without claims being paid is a day where family owned businesses may shut their doors for good. Floridians and families all across the Gulf are hurting and are depending on you to ensure they receive much deserved and needed relief in a dignified and expedient manner.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "George S. LeMieux". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "George" being the most prominent part.

George S. LeMieux
United States Senator

GSL/fcw